

February 22, 2023

Donna Rusgrove

15 Polly Dan Road

Burlington, CT 06013

Subject: S.B. 1057, S.B. 1064, S.B. 5004

I am submitting testimony for three of the bills on the agenda for February 22, 2023.

I am a Registrar of Voters in the Town of Burlington, CT. I have been in the Elections Department for over 20 years and am in my second elected term (previously appointed).

We are a small town with a population of under 10,000. We have approximately 6900 electors in our town.

Early Voting has been voted in, now what. I have read over all of these bills and am here to testify what a burden these bills will cause for my town, not only in funds but also in space. We are a small town and we really have no "extra" buildings where we can have early voting. Our elections are at our town hall in the auditorium. The Registrars cannot take control of the auditorium for 10 days or 18 days. Basically, we have no extra space. We have no other buildings to utilize for Early Voting. The number of days for early voting really needs to be looked at and seriously discussed. I propose 3-5 days for Early Voting with one of them being a Saturday. That will help most of us with one problem.

You also need to look at the differences between small and large towns. There are several other towns that are scrambling to figure out how, where and when. Our systems are outdated and have been for several years. The CVRS system needs to be replaced. The EMS, end of night voting system doesn't work. Our tabulators are on their last leg if they can even make it through another election. All towns are not the same.

Our towns do not have the money for all of this, including adding early voting to the mix. We are all stretched thin at this point, people wise and financial. Our poll worker base is aging and while they might like to work once or twice a year to help out they cannot work for days for early voting if that is what it takes. Most of our Registrars are part time and have other jobs, not everyone can put the time in for this and our departments are not funded for it. Please keep this in mind when it gets down to the details.

I ask that you seriously look at these bills both financially and consider the people that you are asking to implement Early Voting. We need to all be fiscally responsible, I am in my town and I know that my fellow Registrars are also. We all need to be, let's tread very carefully through this process and think about all of the aspects of it before making decisions.

Thank You,

Donna Rusgrove